Ferries, Mills and Bridges
(Notes from Chapman Collection)

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SMITHFIELD BRANCH

Ferries.

9-4-1724 a pet. of Miles Wills to keep a public Ferry from his own landing on Mulberry Island in Warwick Co to his plantation in I of W.

Journal of the House of Bur. -
W & M Q. 22-59

Concerning the bridge over Blackwater at the old Ct House. - Jo hampton Com. Jos. Gray & Tho. Wrenn - Johns Eley & Jas Bridger - I of W.

1750 - 264

O.B 1746-52

William Blunt
& wife Elizabeth
sell to Francis
Boykin Scotts
Grist Mill
Deed Book #13 pg 299.

Ferries

May 1779. Be it enacted by the General assembly, That publick ferries shall be constantly kept at the following places, and the rates for passing the same shall be as follows. — From the lands of Tho. Wrenn in the Co. of S.H. across the Blackwater river to the lands of Geo Fearn in the Co. of I of W on the opposite shore, the price for a man sixpence & for a horse the same; from the lands of Elias Herring in the Co. of S.H to the lands of Hancock Barret in the Co. of Isle of W. on the opposite shore, the price for a man Six pence & for a horse the same; from the lands of Tho. Peirce adjoining the Town of Smithfield in the Co. of I of W. across Pagan Creek to the lands of Wm. Hodsden on the opposite shore, the price for a man one shilling for a horse the same.

Hen. 10-124.

Mill

Thomas Webb appoints as attorney
Thomas Bortland to take possession
of a mill known as Webbs mill.
Feb 25 _ 1663
Osmond Gaffe
James Pricklove
John +++ Poole. W+D B I -12.

Mills

upon consideration of the
report of the sd. Com^tee upon
a proposition from Isle of W
Co. yt a law may be made
for erecting ffulling mylle
& the like encouragement give
for it as for grist mills.
Mar. 17. 1692/3

Vol 2 - 430. J. H A B.

Mill.
Know by all those present That I John
Bond of the I of W. Co. in Va hath
bargained sold & delivered unto Thomas
Harris of the aforesaid Co. one corn mill
standing at the head of Pagan ck. in the
sd Co. 1663.
Henry King
alex Phillips Jan 13. /
W W+D B I - 38.

1807. order of Ct – neg with Ths. Peirce Esq for a free passage across his bridge on Pagan to the inhabitants of this co. – to allow him 75-£ for the present yr.
J. B. Southall, Geo. Benn. Ths. Purdie

89.

O. B 1806-9.

John Bond to Ths. Harris one corn mill standing at the head of Pagan ch. 1663 - pg 38.
I of W. W+D. B I

Ferries were established over the branches of Pagan River in 1650 and were originally controlled by the County Commissioners; but were taken out of their control and managed directly by the whole body of the General Assembly, with much loss of time that should have been devoted to the business of the general public. After many years their control was restored to the county court and so continued until 1750, when the ferries were abandoned and bridges were adopted. These bridges were constructed by private parties and, for many years, the owners were allowed to charge tolls. They were afterwards rented to the county, but tolls were charged to non-residents. Finally, in 1891, they were sold to the county and all tolls abolished.

Bridge

Thomas Jarrell, Benj. Ruffin, Benjamin Simmons, Howell Edmund, Jesse Brown Gents were appointed by order of this court bearing the date 7-25-1743 to contract & agree with workmen to erect a strong & sufficient bridge over Nottoway River at or near a place called Flowers.

More - copy

O.B7. 165.

Wrenns Mill

Known as Hardy's mill as early as 1646. A skirmish took place there between U & Confederate forces 4-14-1864

V.A.H. Marker.

April 30, 1757. Whereas it hath been
represented to this Gen A. That the bridge formerly
erected over the western branch of Pagan creek,
from the land of Wm Hodsden to the land of
Richard Reynolds is fallen down & become useless
& that erecting another bridge on the land of the
same persons, a small distance above where the
old bridge was built will be of great use, ease
& benefit to the public; & Wm Rand of the Town
TS in the County aforesaid hath applied for
leave to erect, maintain & support a good
& sufficient bridge over the sd creek at his own
expence. allowed following rates - for man
& horse, 4 pence, for every wheel carriage
2 pence per wheel; every head of neat
cattle 2 pence, for every head of sheep or hogs
1 penny. No person shall have liberty
to pass over sd bridge with wheel carriages,
horses or cattle until they shall first pay
& satisfy the sd Wm. R. the Toll herein before
mentioned. Provided always foot persons
are hereby declared to have liberty to pass
over the sd. bridge free.

H. Vol. 7 (p) 156

It is ordered That a ferry be established from the Co. wharf in Smithfield over Pagn Ck to the point of the causeway on the land of Wm Hodsden. & That Saml. Wentworth be appt. keeper thereof & That he give bond according to law in the clk. office. & that he be allowed 10 shillings per year for setting the militia over & ordered That he keep a large Gundalo & one hand.

1762

1759-63 - 367.

AN ACT FOR BUILDING A BRIDGE OVER PAGAN DREEK: AND FOR APPOINTING SEVERAL NEW FERRIES.

l.Whereas it hath been represented to this Assembly, by divers of the inhabitants of the county of Isle of Wight and others, that it will be very advantageous and convenient to them to have a bridge built and maintained over the western branch of Pagan creek, from the land of William Hodsden, in the said county of Isle of Wight, to the land of Richard Reynolds, in the said county, and they have prayed leave to build a bridge at the said place, over the said creek, and to maintain and keep the same in repair, by subscription;

ll. Be it therefore enacted, by the Lieutenant Governor, Council, and Burgesses, of this present General Assembly, and it is herby enacted by the authority of the same, That for the better building, ordering, and keeping in repair the said bridge, over Pagan creek, at the place aforesaid, it sahll be in the power of Robert Burwell, esq. Arthur Smith, Lawrence Baker, Joseph Bridger, James Baker, William Hodsden, James Dunlop, James Arthur, and Andrew Mackie, gentlemen, of the county aforesaid who are hereby nominated trustees, for putting so much of this act in execution as relates to the bridge aforesaid, or any five or more of them, to receive subscriptions, and the money subscribed, for every person and persons who shall be willing to make such subscriptions, and to apply the same towards building a bridge at the place aforesaid, and keeping the same in repair, and to design, direct, and agree with workmen for building the said bridge, so that the same be not less than twelve feet in breadth, and railed on each side three feet high, with one arch at least twenty feet wide, sufficiently high for the passage of boats and flats.

lll. And for continuing the succession of the trustees for the said bridge Be it further enacted, by the authority aforsaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said trustees, herein before mentioned, or any five or more of them, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, during the continuance of the said bridge, upon the death, resignation, or removal, of any of the trustees herein before mentioned, to elect and choose such and so many other person or persons, inhabiting within the said county of Isle of Wight, as they shall think fit, not exceeding nine; which person or persons, so elected and chosen as aforesaid, shall be deemed, and taken to be, trustees for the bridge aforesaid, as fully and amply as if appointed by this act.

lV. Provided always, That nothing in this act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to impower the justices of the said county of Isle of Wight, or their successors, the justices of the said county for the time being, to tax and levy, or assess any money, or tobacco, on the inhabitants of the said county of Isle of Wight, for the building, maintaining, and keeping in repair, the said bridge, but that the same shall be built, maintained, and kept in repair, by subscription as aforesaid and by no other ways or means whatsoever.

V. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That public ferries be constantly kept at the places herin after named, and that the rates for passing the said ferries be as follows; on the western branch of Pagan creek, from the land of William Hodsden, to the town of Smithfield in the said county of Isle of Wight, and from the said town of Smithfield to the land of the said William Hodsden aforesaid, the price for a man four pence, and for a horse the same, until the bridge herein before mentioned, over the said creek, at the place aforesaid, shall be built, and no longer, and from the said town of Smithfield to the land of Charles Fulgham, over the eastern branch of Pagan creek, in the county aforesaid, and from the land of the said Charles Fulgham to the said town of Smithfield, the price for a man six pence, and for a horse the same

And for the transportation of wheel carriages, tobacco, cattle, and other beasts at any of the places aforesaid, the ferry keepers may demand and take the rates following, to wit; for every caach, chariot or waggon, and the driver thereof, the same as for six horses; for every cart or four wheel-chaise, and the driver therof, as for four horses; for every two wheel-chaise or chair, as for two horses; for every hogshead of tobacco, as for one horse;for every head of neat cattle, as for one horse; for every sheep, goat or lamb, one fifth part of the ferriage of one horse; for every hog, one fourth part of the ferriage of one horse; according to the prices herein before settled, at such ferries respectively, and no more.

February 1752- 25th. George II.

Hen. Stat. Vol. VI pg. 288